



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2007
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**Akron, Ohio, Resident Entered Guilty Plea to Traveling in
Interstate Commerce to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct**

MARTINSBURG, WV — A 41 year old Akron, Ohio, resident entered a plea of guilty on March 8, 2007, in United States District Court in Martinsburg before Magistrate Judge David J. Joel.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter announced that BERNARD MORRIS entered a plea of guilty to one count of an Indictment charging him with traveling from the State of Virginia to the State of West Virginia on August 12, 2006, for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a 14 year old girl that he met on-line.

MORRIS, who is currently in custody pending sentencing, faces a maximum exposure of 30 years imprisonment and fine of \$250,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David J. Perri and was investigated by the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

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